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COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



Burning the Books

The men who make and serve museums and libraries certainly are truly happy. . . . They are free men, above the necessity for judgment between good and evil. It is theirs merely to assemble and arrange the evidence.

—LAWRENCE C. WROTH

WE HOPE that librarians, by and large, still feel themselves free men. Some of their number in overseas Libraries of the State Department can today hardly be happy men, as brash Congressional investigators denounce them for admitting onto their shelves the books of authors labelled subversive. They are on the carpet, in fact, for exercising that very prerogative of superiority to moral judgments accorded them by Professor Wroth. Recently a Congressional Committee has investigated "obscene" literature. Congressmen Celler and Walter, in a tart minority report, point out that the majority of the Committee go beyond the problem of obscenity to criticize a variety of other ideas in the condemned books, and that "this comes dangerously close to book-burning."

In spite of the distant glow of inquisitorial fires, they continue in the Columbia Libraries "to assemble and arrange the evidence." To contemplate this serene and never-ending process gives us reassurance in a world so eaten-up by moral indignation.

Besides, it has been estimated that to remove a book from our library shelves costs 36 cents. A respectable bonfire would require at least 1,000 volumes. Could we afford, in the present state of Library finances, even to *gather* the books for a literary auto-da-fé?

The Friendly Libraries

COLTON STORM

The Director of the Clements Library tells how the William Wilson Papers came to the University of Michigan, and how the Columbia Libraries cheerfully helped.

ABOUT a year ago, I had the good fortune to find that several scholarly and not quite scholarly meetings were to take place in the East during two successive weeks. Ann Arbor is my home, and it is a lovely place to live especially in the spring; but scattered up and down the Eastern seaboard I have several friends whose company is always delightful. Therefore, the attendance on these important meetings of national organizations was mandatory. Among the more attractive gatherings scheduled was the annual session of the Bibliographical Society of America at Charlottesville, Virginia.

Charlottesville is a peculiar place. It is important and fascinating because it is built around the University of Virginia and has attracted numerous exceptionally interesting people. It is also notable because, while most eating places in the vicinity are of indifferent character, the Farmington Country Club leaves me with the impression that food in the Charlottesville area is magnificent. One of my good friends in Detroit had provided me with a guest card on the off-chance that there would be an opportunity to make use of the dining room. When I set out from Ann Arbor, a visit to the Farmington Country Club was far from my mind. However, within a few minutes of arriving at the Alderman Library there came into view three notorious characters of the current American book world: Messrs. P. J. Conkwright, E. Harold Hugo, and Richard S. Wormser. We were decorous during the meeting, but afterwards our greetings were familiar and affectionate. The Colonade Club demanded our attention for a considerable spell of time, while we were the guests of that distin-

guished Virginia gentleman, John Cooke Wyllie, but the matter of solids was eventually brought to our attention. It occurred to me then that there was in my pocket a guest card for the Farmington Country Club; so with a gesture in the grand manner I invited the other three gentlemen to be my guests (as far as admittance was concerned) at the Farmington.

We dined exceedingly well, but the dinner was costly, from the Clements Library point of view. During the repast, one of the guests described a collection of manuscripts which he had secured just before setting out on his southern jaunt. Mr. Wormser very carefully undersold his excitement over the collection, and he was so successful in communicating his enthusiasm that I secured from him a promise that he would offer the collection to the Clements Library immediately upon hearing whether or not a certain New York institution had accepted or rejected his offer.

For the next month or so, I spent many anxious hours thinking about the possibilities of acquiring the great collection. Curiously enough, I have no recollection of what happened in Charlottesville after hearing about the collection of papers formed by Dr. William Wilson (1755-1828) of Clermont, New York. I know we visited Monticello and were thoroughly soaked by a shower of rain on our return, but I shall have to revisit Monticello to comprehend its beauties. At last, the extraordinarily welcome news arrived that the certain New York institution had declined to purchase the William Wilson Papers. The offer was submitted to the Clements Library and accepted immediately. By the first of July, the papers were all in our Manuscript Division, and shortly thereafter work on sorting and arranging them commenced. They proved very exciting. They contain large quantities of information that will eventually be of great value to economic, agrarian, and medical historians. The Library feels fortunate in owning the collection, and grateful to Mr. Wormser and to the certain New York institution which turned them down.

Dr. William Wilson was born in Scotland in 1755. He came to the United States in 1784 with letters of introduction to various

prominent Americans including Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. The Chancellor, needing a competent medical man in his area, induced Dr. Wilson to establish himself at Clermont. There Dr. Wilson enjoyed a long and successful career in every phase of professional, lay, and political activity. As confidant and advisor to the Chancellor, he was given charge of the great Livingston holdings while the owner served as Minister to France. Later he acted as executor of the Chancellor's estate. He was president of the county medical organization and of the state medical society, second judge of Columbia County, first postmaster of Clermont, and prominent in local and state agricultural circles.

The Wilson Papers include a considerable body of material relating to the management of various interests of other members of the Livingston family. Correspondence with local farmers, tradesmen, tenants, artisans, members of well-known New York families, about Livingston and Wilson political, financial, and agricultural affairs, and surveys, leases, other legal agreements, and accounts comprise the bulk of the Papers. Present also are letters and papers of several of the Doctor's children, including Robert L. Wilson, a New York attorney; Stephen B. Wilson, who enjoyed a long career in the Navy; and William H. Wilson of the U. S. Army Medical Department.

Among the papers of Dr. Wilson there is a substantial run of account books covering, in varying degrees, the years from the early 1780's until well into the second decade of the 19th century. There are gaps in the run; apparently some volumes were missing and apparently no records were kept for some years or the records were destroyed. However, from other materials in the collection a fairly complete accounting of Dr. Wilson's income is possible. Still we wished most heartily that the series of accounts was complete.

Just before I left for a vacation in Northern Michigan, about the middle of August, a catalogue of the Tuttle Company of Rutland, Vermont, arrived. Usually, I read such catalogues with a great deal of avidity, but on this occasion there was too much

to be done before leaving town, and the catalogue was set aside unread. In some ways, that action was a mistake; in others, it was one of the happier things that have occurred here in recent years. About the same time, Mr. Wormser picked up (at Southampton, England) a large bundle of catalogues which had been shipped to him from New York. Those catalogues were to be his ship-board reading on the way home. Two months later, in New York, I stopped at the establishment of Mr. Wormser, whose first action was to hand me a leaf torn from a Tuttle catalogue: "Did you see this?" he asked. I looked at it carefully, and to my horror discovered that Messrs. Tuttle had offered two volumes of manuscript accounts kept by Dr. William Wilson of Clermont, New York. The time was October; the catalogue was issued in August; obviously the two volumes had been sold. Stuffing the description into my wallet, I carried it around like a mill stone until I returned to Ann Arbor. A letter to the Tuttle barn brought the amused reply of Miss Jane Wright that, although the account books had been advertised in August, during the same week in October two orders had arrived in Rutland requiring delivery of the account books. Unfortunately, the Clements Library order was the second to arrive.

For years, this Library has joined other libraries in preaching the gospel of coöperation between collectors, librarians, and dealers. It seemed to me that if the opportunity ever existed when coöperation might be secured from either a librarian or a collector (I didn't think about dealers coöperating, because they do automatically), this was it. Therefore, I sent a letter to Miss Wright enclosing a letter addressed to the purchaser of the Wilson account books. I explained that we had recently purchased the papers of Dr. Wilson, and that the account books had somehow become separated from the papers before we secured them. I asked, in case there was no overwhelming reason for the purchaser to keep the accounts, if he would sell them to the Clements Library. Miss Wright's response was immediate. I could almost hear the chuckles with which she wrote her letter and sent it post haste

to us. Miss Wright explained that she was returning my letter addressed to the purchaser of the account books because, although it is normally not the custom of the Tuttle Company to release names of purchasers, she thought it would be best if I acted directly with the purchaser. She told me very kindly Columbia University Libraries had purchased the account books and suggested I write directly to Columbia.

Mr. Wormser and I had often discussed New York Librarians, and it occurred to me that his remarks about Dr. Carl M. White might indicate a degree of friendship. Therefore, instead of writing directly to Dr. White, I called Mr. Wormser on the phone. I explained what I had learned and asked if he would care to undertake negotiations with Columbia. Mr. Wormser did so, and within a very short while I had a pleasant letter from Dr. White, offering to surrender the volumes to the Clements Library. They were sent directly to us, and billed to the Library through the Tuttle firm.

It seems to me that this little story, in somewhat abbreviated form, ought to be carved on the Clements Library and the Columbia University Libraries buildings as a permanent record of coöperation between libraries. I doubt very much that such an arrangement would have been possible fifty years ago. The climate of collecting, gathering, and using American historical resources has changed mightily in that period, and I think the climate has changed for the better. These are not days in which a James Lenox could refuse a Henry Harrisse admittance to a collection. They are not days in which university libraries can reserve great masses of research materials for the exclusive use of their own faculties. Librarians realize that the demands of the scholarly world are so great that no single library can meet them all. It is only by coöperation between libraries, librarians, and scholars that the best use of the materials belonging to any institution can be made. The willingness of Columbia University Libraries to surrender an important manuscript which Columbia wanted (and still wants) so that the two volumes could take their proper place

in a larger body of related manuscripts is a splendid example of this desire of libraries and librarians to coöperate with one another. I do not venture to predict what may happen in the future; but I can and do assert that this kindness on the part of the Librarian and Columbia University Libraries is the beginning of a "long and beautiful friendship."

Columbia's Giant Encyclopedia

Plimpton Manuscript No. 263

BERTHA M. FRICK

ALITTLE over five hundred years ago Sir Thomas Chaworth, head of an ancient and illustrious Nottinghamshire family, built for himself a magnificent family home, Wiverton Hall, within an imposing park. As the huge beams and stone blocks began to give form to his dream castle, and later, as the fine paneling and wood carving began to give character to the regal-size rooms, it may have occurred to Sir Thomas that among all his store of books he had none in keeping with the proportions of his new library. Perhaps he recalled, with envy or delight, having seen as a boy an enormous manuscript in the library of the near-by Vernon family, or a similar one at the Simeons, and decided that the Chaworths too should have such a monumental tome to give proper dignity to their library.

Whatever may have been the incentive which inspired the ordering of such a book, today visitors to the Plimpton Collection in Room 655, Butler Library, gaze with admiration and amazement upon it—Columbia's largest manuscript and one of its largest books, written or printed.

The smooth white vellum leaves of this giant volume measure almost twenty-four inches high by sixteen inches wide. Its nearly eight hundred pages make it more than six inches thick and, with its eighteenth-century leather binding over thick boards, give it a weight of forty-nine pounds so that it taxes a man's muscles to lift it.

Now large Bibles and even larger choir books for lecterns in churches had often been written both in England and on the Continent. It was suitable to have such large books of large pro-

portions just as altar Bibles are designed today. But the three manuscripts mentioned above were books for home reading. The Vernon volume, the Bodleian Library's largest manuscript, and the Simeon manuscript in the British Museum, both written about the end of the fourteenth century, contain collections of English literature, prose and poetry. The Chaworth volume, copied about 1440, is an encyclopedia with the title *The Properties of Things*.

It is difficult to understand why these English peers had such unwieldy and unusual volumes made for themselves. The expense was enormous for the raw material alone. Probably calfskin, that is, vellum, was used for all such large books as it gives a larger size than a sheepskin. According to Graham Pollard the average size of a calfskin is four by six feet. A single skin would yield eight leaves (sixteen pages) each two feet by eighteen inches—almost the exact page size of these three books. By this standard the Plimpton manuscript required the skins of about fifty calves, while the vellum used for the Vernon manuscript, the bulkiest of the lot, needed a herd of more than sixty. Had sheepskin been used, the parchment makers would have needed twice as many animals.

It looks as though our Sir Thomas really wanted a show-piece. While the Vernon and Simeon manuscripts have close-packed pages of eighty to ninety lines per column, the Plimpton encyclopedia was planned and is written with wanton waste of pages.

The scribe ruled guide lines for margins and lines, planning the layout in luxurious style with two widely spaced columns containing only forty-three lines per column, thus leaving margins so ample that less than half of the page area is used for writing.

Then the scribe began writing in a large clear English Gothic minuscule, less formal than he would have thought suitable for a Latin Bible but far larger and clearer than is to be seen in many an English-language manuscript of the period. On he wrote, line after line, long column after long column, huge page after huge page. Another scribe took over, but the style of script remains the same for all the four or five penmen who apparently worked on the volume.

Finally, after how many days and weeks of finger-cramping toil no one knows, the end was reached. The scribe announced it in large formal letters, giving author and title in their original Latin form: "Explicit tractatus qui vocatur Bartholomaeus de proprietatibus rerum." And then added his patron's name in equally formal style: "Chaworth."

We shall soon see further evidence of the owner's identity.

The scribes now turned their sheets over to the rubricator and illuminator to make the colorful volume which instantly attracts the eye today.

The first fifteen pages are devoted to an alphabetical index, a necessity for such a reference work. Dull though it may be in content, the rubricator saw to it that it would not lack life in appearance. Index references are by book and chapter with the numerals for the former in red to set them off from the black chapter numerals. Each column of red numerals is headed by the Latin word "Libro." Often the rubricator could not resist turning its large initial "L" into the outline of a fish standing on its tail and with supercilious nose pointing far into the wide margin, sometimes jauntily supporting a waving red banner. Again, the side of the "L" becomes a puckish human profile staring impudently across the column, and we almost expect a tiny red tongue to roll out of his saucy mouth. In such irrelevant, and sometimes irreverent, ways did medieval scribes lighten long hours of labor.

Most magnificent is the opening page of the text, serving to announce the beginning of the book as does a modern title page. Wide gold bands outlined with narrow black lines form frames for the two columns of script. Around these bars curl and swirl lovely blue and rose acanthus-like leaves which gather to form rosettes at the corners and part in the middle of the bottom margin to flow around the shield on which is painted the Chaworth family arms—indisputable mark of ownership.

Sir Thomas Chaworth died in 1459, but apparently he had already given away this fine volume, for his will, although listing other books, makes no mention of this one, and this giant could

scarcely have been overlooked. He was a generous man and it is probable that he gave it to his cousin, Richard Willoughby. It remained in this family until the then Lord Middleton's library was sold in 1925. (Thomas Willoughby had been created Baron Middleton early in the eighteenth century.) Mr. Plimpton acquired the volume from the London dealer Quaritch, and it came to Columbia with the rest of Mr. Plimpton's rich library in 1936.

We may wonder why Sir Thomas wanted a volume of this size, but we can readily understand why he wanted this particular text—and be grateful to him for ensuring its preservation. It contains an English translation of the most popular encyclopedia of the Middle Ages. Its compiler, Bartholomew, was, as his name implies, born in England. However, he was educated in Paris and he wrote this encyclopedia, in Latin, while he was teaching there, about the year 1230. He must have had access to a good library as he quotes from a wide variety of sources and lists more than a hundred authors whom he consulted. He makes no claim for originality, for he carefully states that he merely wanted to compile these passages on the nature and properties of things which are scattered through the works of saints and philosophers, and thus make a convenient elementary textbook or work of reference for the student. His whole idea, he says, was to make plainer the enigmas which the Bible conceals. However, he gives what obviously must be his own comments when he reports on contemporary subjects and other topics that do not appear in the Scriptures. He was particularly interested in science and this is the key to the work's long popularity.

Bartholomew's own delightful descriptions may be judged by the following extracts. Can our contemporary encyclopedias provide such penetrating bits of information on two such common topics?

Of the Cat: He is a full lecherous beast in youth, swift, pliant, and merry, and leapeth and rusheth on everything that is before him; and is lead by a straw, and playeth therewith; and is a right heavy beast in age and full sleepy, and lieth slyly in wait for mice. . . . In

time of love is hard fighting for wives, and one scratcheth and rendeth the other grievously with biting and with claws. And he maketh a ruthful noise and ghaſtful, when one proffereth to fight with another. . . .

Of a Maid: Men behooſe to take heed of maidens: for they be tender of complexion; ſmall, pliant, and fair of diſpoſition of body; ſhamefaſt, fearful and merry. . . . And for a woman is more meeker than a man, ſhe weepeth ſooner. And is more envious, and more laughing, and loving; and the ſoul is more in a woman than in a man. . . .

The encyclopedia fully realized its compiler's ambitions, for it was one of the books rented by ſtudents at the University of Paris; and its chapters on medicine were on the required liſt of books as ſubjects for lectures in the medical ſchool at Montpellier. Although it was the original Latin text which was the ſtandard in ſchools, its general popularity is ſhown by the number of languages into which it was translated. An Italian verſion appeared in 1309; then Charles V included it in his great program of translations and it was put into French by Jean Corbichon in 1372. The next generation ſaw the vogue for works in the Engliſh language, and John of Treviſa translated it in 1398. This is the verſion in the Plimpton manuſcript. Later, the encyclopedia appeared in Provençal and finally in Spaniſh and in Dutch.

Of the more than fifty known manuſcripts of Bartholomew's encyclopedia, eight are in the United States. The ſeven others include ſix in Latin and one in French, none of which approaches in ſize Sir Thomas's volume. Even the laigeſt and moſt luxurious manuſcript, the Pierpont Morgan Library's copy of the French translation, ornamented with eighteen half-page miniatures, is contained on 430 leaves about fifteen by eleven inches in ſize. All the other American-owned manuſcripts are from ten to twelve inches in height, thus being the handy volumes Bartholomew envisioned. Perhaps he would have been aghaſt at the anything but convenient Chaworth manuſcript!

The *De proprietatibus rerum* had plenty of competition during the century in which it was iſſued. In fact ſo many encyclopedias

appeared at this period that the thirteenth has been called the "century of encyclopedias." Its most famous competitor and the largest was the *Speculum maius* of Vincent de Beauvais, published in Paris about 1250 under royal sponsorship (Vincent was tutor to Louis IX). The Englishman's compilation shows something of the same relation in size to the Frenchman's as that between today's *Columbia Encyclopedia* and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Vincent's huge work required seven enormous volumes when it was first printed, making it the largest incunabulum in existence. The first English edition of Bartholomew is a compact but handsomely printed volume of 954 pages just under twelve inches high, thus considerably less bulky than its 1950 counterpart—the *Columbia Encyclopedia* with 2,203 pages exactly twelve inches high.

Bartholomew's work attained "best seller" proportions in the incunabula period, its twenty-four editions giving it first rank among all other encyclopedias and placing it fifteenth in comparison with other scientific works. First printed in Latin at Basel in 1470, before the year 1500 ended there were eleven other editions in Latin, eight in French, two in Spanish, and one each in Dutch and English.

The English edition did not appear until about 1495, printed by Wynkyn de Worde, Caxton's successor. It was reprinted in 1535 and again in 1582. But after a life-span of three and one-half centuries its tide had finally run out and the world more or less forgot that the one-time best seller had ever existed.

However, in modern times it has come to attention again, even to the point where the British and the French have disputed Bartholomew's nationality, both claiming him as a native son! Interest in Bartholomew's work was heightened when our handsome manuscript appeared on the market in 1925. Soon after the manuscript came to Columbia, Robert W. Mitchner spent many long hours of his sabbatical leave from Indiana University poring over the clearly penned words. Then Professor Mitchner's observant eyes saw what no modern scholar had noticed before—delicate pencil markings and numerals added at regular intervals. By com-

paring these with the first printed English edition he found that these marks correspond to appropriate pages in the printed work. Further study convinced him that Wynkyn de Worde had used this very manuscript as his copy when he put the work into type. The discovery, a remarkable piece of scholarship, was announced in 1951 in the *Transactions* of the Bibliographical Society in London.

Wynkyn de Worde must have borrowed the manuscript from Sir Henry Willoughby and transported the precious volume to Westminster. One can only imagine the fear and respect that de Worde must have instilled in his compositors to keep them from sullyng the pure white of the vellum. Only a single thumb-print has been found as telltale evidence of a printer's ink-stained hands.

Sir Thomas Chaworth's show-piece takes an honored and important place among the few treasured examples of early printers' copy. Columbia is fortunate in having the two volumes again side by side. In them can be seen such changes in spelling and punctuation as de Worde felt he must make to bring the work up to date. We may see substitution of words current at his time or of words which seem to him an improvement over the English of John of Trevisa's day. Likewise we may see practices, and errors, of fifteenth-century compositors.

Bartholomew the Englishman's *The Properties of Things* is about to be put into print again. Professor Mitchner is preparing copy from the text in the Chaworth-Middleton (Willoughby)-Plimpton manuscript.

Spirits, Poets and Poetry in the Thomas S. Jones Collection

THE bequest of literary manuscripts, correspondence and books from Thomas S. Jones, an American poet active throughout most of the three early decades of our century, was announced in our November (1952) issue.

Jones began to publish his poems even prior to the American poetical renaissance a year or two before the First World War. His collection admirably conveys the atmosphere of those times. His books include presentation copies or first editions of Louise Imogen Guiney, Lizette Woodworth Reese, Anna Hempstead Branch, Clinton Scollard, James Lane Allen, and Sara Teasdale, and of a considerable number of men and women at least once conspicuous in a fruitful decade of American verse. Most of Jones's own books were published by Thomas B. Mosher, the independent-minded and eclectic editor, bibliophile and aesthete whose home was in Portland, Maine. Jones kept the greater number of the titles that came from the Mosher Press, now often considered as rarities in recent Americana.

He corresponded with a majority of the writers whose books he owned and with many more. There is a long and striking series of letters from F. W. Prescott, a highly imaginative scholar at Cornell, who wrote some of the first literary essays in America bearing strong marks of the new ideas in psychology. There are letters from poets and antiquaries in England, in which country several of Jones's small books were published. Jones kept carbon copies of a large number of his own letters, which are themselves revealing from a biographical point of view.

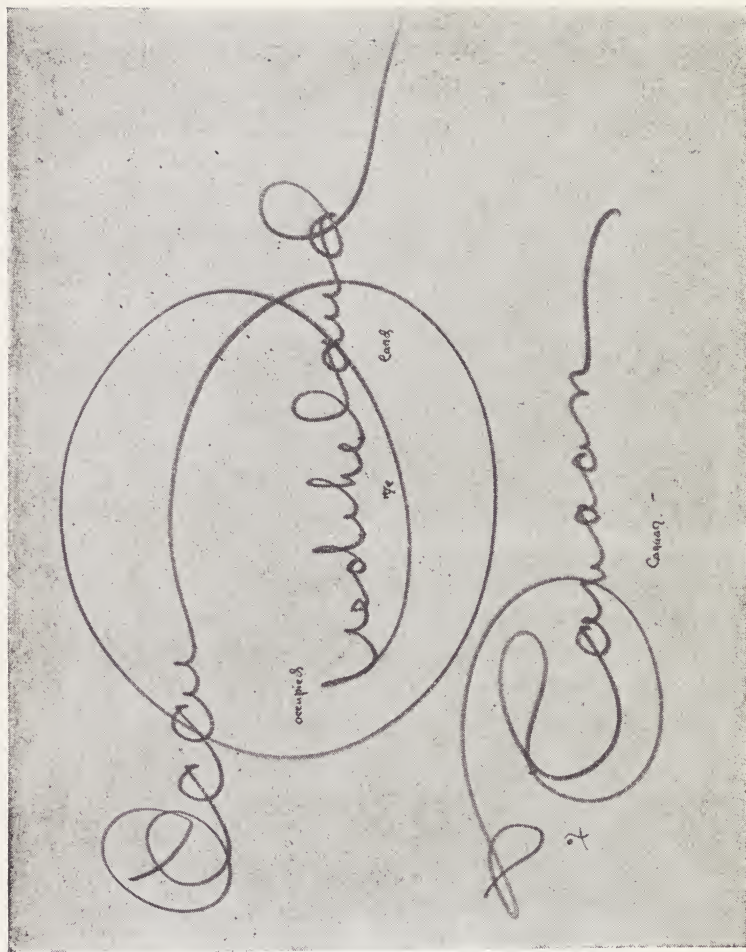
Much interested in mysticism and in comparative religion, he was introduced to spiritism as a young student by Hiram Corson, the friend of Browning. He developed a capacity for "automatic" or "spirit" writing, and he first committed to paper by this process

the poetry of all his books published during the second and most fruitful period of his active life—a process which is of peculiar interest to the student either of psychical phenomena or of psychology. Henry W. Wells writes: “No part of these works was committed to writing until inscribed with great flowing script in pencil by the hand of a woman over whose wrist the poet held his fingers. There was no real question as to what hand directed the pencil. But Jones felt that all such writing was in some way instantaneously bestowed upon him, not composed in the usual manner, either through reason or intuition. A Muse intervened. Occasionally the Muse even used foreign tongues, with which the poet denied acquaintance. The mind of the Muse was certainly not that of the medium, who was fitted for her modest role in part by her incontestable neutrality. The actual Muse was, in Jones’s eye, more nearly an ever nameless spirit somewhere in the angelic hierarchies.”¹ In this fashion he would dash off a sonnet or a prose passage at a high speed. On at least two occasions he is said to have composed Petrarchian sonnets in 90 seconds. Sometimes the verse poured forth after he had “asked for” a given sonnet, setting its general theme.

His sonnet on Blake is typical of his work in this verse form:

Upon the edges of the trembling sea
He walks with patriarchs and Druid kings,
And from the far horizon, white with wings,
Flames Los the terrible, fierce-browed and free;
Or where the purple headlands slope to lee,
He hears the seraphs by their silver springs
Murmur of bright unutterable things,
Of worlds destroyed that fairer worlds may be.
And ever at his side a shadow grows,
From leaves that bud and blossom at his feet
To stars beyond the crystal’s widest span:
Sap of the suns! breath of the morning rose!
Tiger and lamb within that shadow meet—
The Shape of God who is the Eternal Man.

¹ “The Visions of Thomas S. Jones,” *Review of Religion*, March, 1953.



Example of Jones's automatic writing: "Occupied the land of Canaan"

The illustration opposite is an example of Jones's exquisite script. It is a page of automatic writing from a prose-poem entitled "The Celts." This manuscript, which consists of 128 pages of foolscap, is in an enormous script, with the words written out again underneath in ordinary size. One is aghast at the prodigal expenditure of paper: sometimes only one word will fit on a page! The manuscript begins: "There is a long message which can come when you will . . . The subject of the message? It is a thing foreshadowed . . . Now rest for five minutes; then no talking as it comes." Then the prose-poem follows. At page 84, the "Muse" announces: "Now for to-day enough. Read aloud Ezekiel 26 and 27. We bless you. Leave it now, little dweller in God's Garden." However, the writing continues for a few pages, answering questions about obscure points in the preceding material.

These are not wholly unique documents, for writing of this sort, or very like it, has been fairly well known; but it may well be doubted if so full a record of automatic writing of verse is anywhere else to be found.

Although Jones did not claim direct communication with the dead, his meditations gave him a powerful sense of intimacy with them. Like William Blake, he could project himself backwards till he felt himself in the mystic company of "patriarchs and Druid kings." A dream world, a world of vision, or of art, was rendered possible for Jones by this extraordinary habit of composition. A library becomes a poetic laboratory which possesses such an intimate record of a poet's mind.

Spirit-writing may strike some as humbug. The excerpts quoted from "The Celts" have, perhaps, an air of the mediumistic seance with its sham reverence and portentousness. However, there was in Jones a spring of genuine religious mysticism which redeems him, and which he himself recognized as the essential nourisher of his spiritual being. Writing of his spiritual development, he says: "You can trace a growth that leads up to 'As in a Rose-Jar,' but never is there a consciousness of a certain divine Immanence until I make a discovery and write it out in 'Joyous Gard' . . . And

then came the realization of 'In Excelsis,' the writing of it, and the public declaration of it; I had come to the realization of the Incarnation by the way of beauty, nature, people, friends, poets, and then the Greatest One of All. From that date I feel I have never been a free person."

The last stanza of "In Excelsis," the climactic poem of Jones's life, illustrates his ultimate dedication:

Waiting, I turn to Thee,
Expectant, humble, and on bended knee;
Youth's radiant fire
Only to burn at Thy unknown desire—
For this alone has Song been granted me.
Upon Thy altar burn me at Thy will;
All wonders fill
My cup, and it is Thine;
Life's precious wine
For this alone: for Thee.
Yet never can be paid
The debt long laid
Upon my heart, because my lips did press
In youth's glad Spring the Cup of Loveliness!

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

IT MUST be increasingly clear to readers of these pages that the Columbia University Libraries are rapidly assuming major importance as a repository for manuscript and archival collections. In recent issues we have reported many acquisitions of such materials—both by gift and by purchase—which have added significantly to our resources for literary and historical research—the Gumby Collection on the American Negro; the Stephen Crane Collection; the Samuel J. Tilden papers representing his political career; the Chalfant-Britton Collection of early Chinese writings; the various Russian archival files; the Max Nomad clippings on corporate forms of government; the Thomas S. Jones Collection of books, correspondence, and “automatic writing” manuscripts; the Oral History Memoirs; the growing corpus of manuscripts of contemporary authors; and many other smaller but no less useful groups of unique materials.

The importance of such original sources for advanced graduate research cannot be over-emphasized. In most instances, however, the collections come to us in an unorganized state, and one of our greatest problems has been that of making the materials available for scholarly use. There is at present under way a project, sponsored and being carried out by The Libraries, of listing and describing some two hundred groups of archival materials that are housed in the various libraries about the campus. This compilation will be closed as of June 30, 1953, so that the descriptions can be published. It is already foreseen that supplements to the list will be required periodically, and it is recognized that the work will always be something less than complete. Just *how* incomplete can be inferred from the rate of acquisition indicated by the following trio of collections chosen for mention from the

many which have arrived since the previous issue of LIBRARY COLUMNS appeared.

The Boudin Papers: the correspondence and papers of the late Louis B. Boudin (1874-1952), presented in his memory by his widow, Dr. Anna P. Boudin, and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney E. Cohn. The collection comprises at least 500 pieces, including letters from prominent European socialists or authorities on socialism, 1906-1915; the complete unpublished manuscript of Boudin's work *Order Out of Chaos*, a study of economic crises; and various other manuscripts and lecture notes, both published and unpublished.

The Rautenstrauch Papers: the scientific papers and lecture notes, published and unpublished, of the late Professor Walter Rautenstrauch (1880-1951), presented in his memory by Mrs. Rautenstrauch and Dr. Raymond Villers, his former associate. Professor Rautenstrauch was an eminent authority on industrial engineering and management, a pioneer at making executives out of engineers, and was responsible to a large degree for the establishment at Columbia University of the department of Industrial Engineering.

The Hart Crane Collection: the correspondence, manuscripts, and memorabilia of Hart Crane (1899-1932), recently purchased. Crane, a controversial figure during his productive years, is now recognized as a pre-eminent influence in American poetry of the present century. His major work, *The Bridge*, carries on the Whitman tradition. The collection, numbering hundreds of pieces, includes many of the poet's work sheets, revisions of poems, drafts, and letters—including incoming correspondence from contemporary authors.

On Tuesday evening, April 7, the occasion of the opening of the current "50 Books of the Year" exhibition, Mr. Walter Dorwin Teague, President of the American Institute of Graphic Arts,

formally presented to Columbia University, through Dr. Carl M. White, the Institute's cumulative file of its annual "50 Books" selections. The exhibitions were begun in 1923, and Columbia is therefore receiving, to become a part of its Graphic Arts collections, thirty years of selections: a total of 1500 books. When it is recalled that these were chosen by juries of men prominent in the field of book production, and that "the purposes of inaugurating a series of annual traveling exhibitions of books chosen, not for their literary content, but for their excellence as examples of [American] book-making, were the obvious ones of encouraging the best efforts of our publishers and book-printers and of stimulating a wider interest of the public in tasteful and well-made books," it will be understood how indispensable this collection is to the interpretation and appreciation of the changing standards and techniques in American book design over the past generation. Moreover, many of the items in the collection are now virtually unobtainable through ordinary channels; and Columbia is therefore doubly grateful to have this complete file for its Graphic Arts library.

A most impressive and valuable group of fourteen English and American first editions of prominent authors, mainly of the 19th century, has just been presented anonymously to The Libraries. Among the items are Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and *Shirley*, the latter in the original boards with cloth backs; Dickens' *Master Humphrey's Clock* in the extremely scarce state with gilded edges and cream end-papers; Kipling's third book, *Quartet*, published at Lahore in 1885, in the original wrappers; and a fine copy of Scott's *Waverley* in contemporary calf, the first issues of all three volumes.

Avery Library reports the valuable gift, from the Misses Alice and Constance Ogden, of an album of 134 original drawings by Giovanni Guerra (1544-1618), which constitute an important artistic document, throwing considerable light on the work of

this Italian Renaissance painter, who worked for Pope Sixtus V in the Vatican Palace. The drawings are mainly sepia wash, and record Biblical subjects.

The Medical Library notes two significant presentations of specialized collections. The library of the late Dr. Gaylord Willis Graves was presented in his memory by Mrs. Graves. Dr. Graves had instructed in pediatrics at the College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1922 to 1929, and his library, comprising more than 1500 pieces, includes books and pamphlets in his field, as well as issues of pediatric journals. The library of the late Dr. Maximilian Schulman (P&S 1905) was presented in his memory by Mrs. Schulman. Included in the gift are 300 bound volumes and 1400 unbound issues of periodicals, principally relating to cardiac and internal medicine. Of considerable interest are four bound volumes of notes on lectures at P & S which Dr. Schulman attended from 1902 to 1905.

In the previous issue of LIBRARY COLUMNS was noted the offer of Mrs. Laura S. Young to repair or restore one volume annually as her contribution to the work of the Friends. In the interim, Professor and Mrs. Joseph L. Blau presented to The Libraries a fine copy of a work by Johannes Baptista Crispius, *De Platone Caute Legendo*, printed at Rome in 1594. The copy, which had once belonged to Archbishop Ussher (1581-1656), was in its original leather binding, somewhat tattered by the passage of time. This was the volume selected by Mrs. Young for her restoration work; it is now reposing in Special Collections, completely refurbished. A protective case is being made for it and soon this work, representing a happy instance of cooperative generosity, will be ready for scholars to use.

Other Recent Gifts

ORIGINAL WATER COLORS. A group of three large water colors by the well-known architectural recorder and author, Vernon Howe Bailey. *From the artist.*

ENGINEERING. A collection of 888 volumes on civil and military engineering, presented to the Egleston Engineering Library. *From Herbert T. Wade.*

AUTHORS' MANUSCRIPTS. Original manuscripts of six short stories which are to be published this spring in the *Saturday Evening Post*. *From the author, James Warner Bellah.*

Original manuscript of a chapter from *The Flying Swans*. *From the author, Padraic Colum.*

Original manuscript of *Whaling Wives*. *From the author, Henry Beetle Hough.*

Original manuscript and proofs of *Landfall*. *From the author, Helen R. Hull.*

Original manuscript of *Pound Foolish*. *From the author, Robert Molloy.*

ARCHITECTURE. Twelve published works relating to American and Continental architecture. *From Frederick Frost, Sr.*

Fourteen books and pamphlets, principally relating to early American architecture. *From Talbot F. Hamlin.*

RUSSIA. The first edition of P. S. Pallas's *Reise durch verschiedene Provinzen des Russischen Reichs*, St. Petersburg, 1771. *From Valerien Lada-Mocarski.*

DIARIES. Manuscript diaries of John D. Ward, 1827-1830, in five volumes. *From Robert E. Schmitz.*

The Editor Visits the Law Library

OUR visits to the Columbia Libraries always give us the feeling of breaking through, not the sound-, but the time-barrier. Some Libraries, like Columbiana and Special Collections, have carried us back to the past. The Medical Library, in contact with the latest developments in laboratory and clinic, lives urgently in the present. The Oral History Project, its records sealed until the date set by the personages involved, is dedicated to the historians of the future. But in the Law Library, past, present and future are intermingled, and our current visit will have to be described under each of these time-categories in turn.

The veriest layman—even a simple medico like ourself—knows that law looks to precedent and the past. Yet it was not until we recently explored the stacks in Kent Hall with Harry Bitner, Associate Law Librarian, that the meaning of this came alive for us. Most libraries have publications in series running back into past epochs, but usually a hundred years or so is a very respectable run. In the Law Library stacks we found row after row of vellum-bound books—annual case-reports—dating from the eighteenth, seventeenth and sixteenth centuries, and some of them from much earlier times. We took one down and found it to be a Yearbook of the reign of Richard II. Granted that the book was not contemporary with the case material, still its title page bore a date three years earlier than that of the First Folio of Shakespeare. We came on a paragraph about a husband and wife outlawed for debt in 1388. The Court ordered the woman to be released from custody, “because her husband had gone across the sea, and it would be mischief to keep her in prison.” Englishmen who crossed the sea in 1388 probably did so to soldier with John of Gaunt in Castile. Food for the imagination! Never again would we think of all law books as dull and lifeless. In fact we learned that some are

so exciting to students that they have to be kept in a special reserved section to prevent their being "read to pieces"!

We emerged from the stacks—and the past—into the busy present of the reading rooms. Not far from where we had examined the case-records of the fourteenth century we found students consulting U. S. Supreme Court decisions of the day before yesterday: decisions handed down on Monday, and received at the Library Wednesday morning!

Up-to-the-minute services such as this are expensive, and in the office of Miles Price, the Law Librarian, we learned something of the financial woes of this Library. Until 1949 the Library had managed to keep its great collections in the fields of domestic, foreign and international law in good shape. The difficult financial position of the University forced it to cut the Library appropriation that year. Although some of this cut has been restored, the appropriation for law books is less today than it was fifteen years ago. Yet the material necessary in some areas—for example, international law—has greatly increased, while at the same time the cost of books and overhead has sky-rocketed. We were shown a positively tragic document prepared by the Library Committee, which in May, 1951, outlined the restrictions henceforth to be applied to Law Library acquisitions. While every effort was to be made to supply present teaching needs, the research collections in many areas, including a number of foreign countries hitherto kept up to date, were not to be further developed. There was no mistaking the emotion behind the Law Librarian's comments on Columbia's slide from second to third place among University Law Libraries, and on the dismal prospect of a further decline should the emergency aid from the Dean's Fund and Alumni Contributions begin to falter.

We, too, felt depressed when we contrasted this state of affairs with the past achievements of the Library, not least of which was the building up of the best law library catalogue extant. Furthermore, no law library in the country has served more distinguished

students, witness the names of Supreme Court Justices alone: Hughes, Cardozo, Stone, Reed and Douglas.

A splendid past, an uncertain present: what of the future? When we asked this question, Mr. Price handed us a 3" by 5" card on which 100 pages of a book were microscopically reproduced. This, he said, might be the answer to one problem: the housing of a book collection which had passed the 300,000 mark (the main stack at Kent was built to hold 100,000 volumes), and which could be expected to double in the next sixteen years.

But the future of the Law Library is really in the hands of those friends and alumni who, from personal experience, know its irreplaceable value. We cannot conceive that they will go imperturbably about their business, in a city which is the world's greatest center of legal practice, while an institution which trained many of them, and to which they look for recruits, slowly founders for lack of support.

Miles Price counts on that support, and he is ready to implement it with his own vision of the law library of the future. It is a vision based on a very practical experiment conducted by himself. Twenty-three years ago he came to Columbia as Law Librarian, with every qualification except the essential one of legal training. With characteristic energy, he set about the study of the law—in addition to his library work. Every afternoon, an assistant assembled on a book truck and placed beside his desk the law books he would need for the evening's study. Having eliminated the interposition of the loan desk, as well as long walks in search of books, he found that he could romp through a quantity of reading which would take the inertia-ridden, less conveniently served student twice as long. In the intervening years, he has incorporated the lesson of this experiment into a theory of library planning which would hang reading and seminar rooms around a central book-stack, where the reader would find the books of his subject, on the same floor level, easily accessible without an interposing wall and practically at arm's reach.

Although he himself is approaching retirement, Mr. Price is determined that the Law Library shall have a future as brilliant as its past. Cognizant of plans for the development of the Law School, Miles Price's vision for the Law Library of the future is a center built around a core of books, a core not sealed off but freely offering its sustenance like the honeycomb in the hive—a vision which deserves the thoughtful support of all those who believe that, at a university, “books make the man.”

Activities of The Friends

Finances

IN THE period June 1, 1952—March 30, 1953, the Friends contributed in cash a total of \$8,254.08. Of this, \$3,329.08 was unrestricted and, with the exception of \$896.99 unexpended balance, has gone into our activities. The remaining \$4,925.00 was restricted for special purposes, and includes \$4,500.00 donated to the Libraries by a most generous anonymous Friend.

In addition, there have been gifts by Friends of books and manuscripts, including a most important collection from the anonymous donor mentioned above.

Last year at this time our membership was 160; now it is 266.

Gifts from Friends of the Columbia Libraries

	1952-53 (10 months)	1951-52 (12 months)
Unrestricted	\$3,329.08	\$2,950.19
Restricted	4,925.00	0.00
Total	<hr/> \$8,254.08	<hr/> \$2,950.19

The Council

We are glad to welcome to the Council WALTER D. FLETCHER, Trustee of Columbia University.

The Bancroft Awards Dinner

The Bancroft Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, was held at the Men's Faculty Club, Monday evening, April 20th.

The Bancroft Prizes are granted annually by the Trustees of Columbia University under terms of the will of the late Frederic Bancroft for "distinguished writings in American History, American Diplomacy, or American International Relations." The prizes for 1952 were granted to *The Era of Good Feelings*, by George Dangerfield and published by Harcourt Brace and Company, and to *Rendezvous with Destiny, a History of Modern American Reform*, by Eric F. Goldman and published by Alfred A. Knopf.

August Heckscher, Chief Editorial Writer of the New York *Herald-Tribune*, presided, and the presentations were made by President Grayson Kirk. The principal speaker of the evening was Professor Allan Nevins, DeWitt Clinton Professor of American History at Columbia and a 1948 Bancroft Prize winner. He spoke on "Some Aspects of American Scholarship as Represented by Frederic Bancroft."

Almost two hundred guests attended, including Friends, professors, historians, publishers, and critics assembled to pay honor to the prize-winners, their books, and their publishers. The Bancroft Awards Dinner is one of the most pleasant and significant of the activities of the Friends. By sponsoring this annual event, the Friends join with others in acclaiming two distinguished historians and their works and thus carry out the wishes of one of the chief benefactors of the Columbia Libraries.

Tribute to Charles F. Claar

On May 4th Charles F. Claar of the Circulation Department of the Library completed fifty years of distinguished service. On that evening a group of his friends gathered in the Main Dining Room of John Jay Hall in his honor. The group comprised present and former staff members, professors, students, and alumni, all of whom had known his quiet, patient efficiency and his never-failing friendliness. Refreshments were served, and Mr. Claar was presented with a bound volume of appreciative letters and telegrams with an additional check.

While this event was not a specific activity of the Friends, many of them joined in this tribute of gratitude and affection to one of the most valued and best-loved members of the Library Staff.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

COLTON STORM is Assistant Director of the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor. . . . BERTHA M. FRICK is Associate Professor in our School of Library Service. . . . The article on Thomas S. Jones is largely based on material furnished by Dr. Henry W. Wells, his literary executor.

THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

PRIVILEGES

Invitations to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

Use of books in the reading rooms of the libraries.

Opportunity to consult Librarians, including those in charge of the specialized collections, about material of interest to a member. (Each Division Head has our members' names on file.)

Free subscription to COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS.

* * *

As a Friend of the Columbia Libraries you are asked to assume no specific obligations. We rely on your friendship towards our institution and its ideals. However, if members express their support through annual donations of books or other material, or cash, we shall have a tangible indication that our program to arouse interest in the pressing needs of the Libraries has been successful. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.*

* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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